

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2790
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT,SF
SUBJ: SAG ISSUES WARNING ON BLACK-COLORED-INDIAN "ALLIANCE"

REF: DURBAN 0013

1. THE UNOFFICIAL SAG ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PAPER, THE CITIZEN, HAS CARRIED WHAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE SAG'S FIRST REACTION TO THE ULUNDI MEETING BETWEEN INKATHA, THE COLORED LABOR PARTY AND THE INDIAN REFORM PARTY (RETEL). IN JANUARY 11 EDITORIAL, THE CITIZEN DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS "DANGEROUS POLITICS" WHICH "CAN IN THE END ONLY POLARISE BLACK AND WHITE" AND "SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE GOVERNMENT'S FURTHER-AND CONSTITUTIONAL-PLANS TO CREATE A THREE PARLIAMENT SYSTEM". THE EDITORIAL

WARNED THOSE GROUPS WHICH HAVE NOT ALREADY JOINED INKATHA TO "THINK AGAIN" BEFORE THEY DO SO. IN THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON CHIEF BUTHELEZI AND INKATHA, BY THE WELL-KNOWN SAG COLLABORATOR AIDA PARKER, AN AFRIKAANS ACADEMIC IS QUOTED AS SAYING "THE COLOREDS AND INDIANS ARE BEING TAKEN FOR AN
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ABSOLUTE RIDE" IF THEY BELIEVE "INKATHA IS INTENDED AS AN ALL-EMBRACING PARTICIPATORY MOVEMENT". MS. PARKER WENT ON TO ARGUE THAT COLORED LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON IS NOT ENTIRELY CONVINCED OF THE WISDOM OF THE MOVE BUT IS BEING PRESSURED INTO IT BY MEMBERS OF HIS EXECUTIVE AND THAT, AS A NON-ZULU, HE HAS NO HOPE OF GAINING A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN INKATHA.

2. COMMENT: THE TIMING OF THESE TWO PIECES TO COINCIDE WITH THE OPENING OF THE MEETING, AND THE IMPLICIT WARNING OF SAG DISPLEASURE WITH ANY ACTIVITY WHICH COULD HAMPER THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL PLANS CONSTITUTE THE INITIAL SAG REACTION TO THE TALKS. THE PIECES DISTORT THE BASIS FOR THE MEETING BY INTIMATING BUTHELEZI IS INTERESTED ONLY IN ABSORBING THE OTHER TWO GROUPS INTO INKATHA. IN WHAT HAS BECOME TYPICAL CITIZEN FASHION, A FALLACIOUS ARGUMENT IS CREATED WEDDING FACT WITH FICTION. THE REASON THE THREE PARTICIPANTS THEMSELVES GIVE FOR THE MEETING - TO DISCUSS MEANS FOR COMMON POLITICAL ACTION AND A POSSIBLE MULTI-RACIAL CONFERENCE - IS NOWHERE MENTIONED. IN ADDITION TO THE IMPLICIT THREATS IN THE CITIZEN ARTICLES, INKATHA IS ALSO STILL ON WARNING FROM JUSTICE MINISTER KRUGER THAT IT RISKS A DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT IF IT ATTEMPTS TO EXPAND AMONG NON-ZULUS OR ENGAGE IN "POLARIZATION" OF BLACKS AND WHITES.
FARBER

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